

HF Happenings 760

Volume 15, Issue 23, the week of 24 July 2017



The SARL Premier HF Contest in August

August sees the running of the South African Radio League's premier contest - the SARL HF Contest. The contest is held over three Sundays from 13:00 to 16:30 UTC on each day. On Sunday 6 August, the HF Phone contest will be run, on Sunday 20 August the HF Digital contest and on Sunday 27 August, the HF CW Contest. Each contest takes place on the 20, 40 and 80 meter bands.

You can participate as a single operator single band station, a single operator all band station, a multi operator single band station or a multi operator all band. Individual competitors and club stations are encouraged to compete. In each contest, the exchange is a RS or RST report and a consecutive serial number starting at 001.

Logs must be submitted in ADIF, Cabrillo or MS Excel format and labelled "your call sign HF Phone or HF Digital or HF CW," by 13 August for the Phone contest, 27 August for the digital contest and 3 September for the CW contest. Logs must be sent to zs4bfn@mweb.co.za

There are three trophies for the phone contest and two trophies each for the digital and CW contests. There are four trophies covering all three contests, two of these trophies go to the youth and YLs participating and there is a trophy for the Club with the best participation.

Get all the information on page 34 of the 2017 SARL Blue Book.

2017 CQ WW Rules – Update Announcement

The following are updates made to the 2016 rules, effective for the 2017 CQ WW SSB and CW weekends. Full rules will be published soon. In addition to the updates, the thought process behind each update is included. We hope this will provide some insight into the reasons for the updates.

You can now download your copy of HF Happenings from

www.sarl.org.za/hf_happenings.asp

July

1 – SARL Newbie Sprint

2 – ZS5 Sprint

5 to 8 - Innibos Arts Festival, Nelspruit

7 to 16 Knysna Oyster Festival

8 and 9 - IARU HF Championships

14 - RAE Registration opens

14 to 16 - Ham Radio 2017, Friedrichshafen, Germany

15 – RaDAR Challenge and the SARL Winter QRP Contest

15 and 16 - Franschhoek Bastille Festival

18 to 22 - Vryfees Arts Festival, Bloemfontein

22 - CTARC 71st AGM

23 – ZS2 Sprint

24 - All schools open

25 - Closing date August Radio ZS

29 and 30 - RSGB IOTA Contest

August

1 - Tish'a B'Av

5 to 12 – IARU Region 1 YOTA Summer Camp, Gilwell Park, UK

6 – SARL HF Phone Contest

9 – National Women's Day; SARL YL Sprint

11 to 13 - Klein Karoo Klassique, Oudsthoorn

19 and 20 - International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend

20 – SARL HF Digital Contest

24 - Closing date for September Radio ZS

25 and 26 - Hantam Vleisfees, Calvinia

27 - SARL HF CW Contest

31 Aug to 3 Sept - Gariep Kunstefees, Kimberley

1. **Multi-Single definition:** The word “transmitter” is updated to “station/signal” and there is now reference made to the FAQ section. This was in response to a post on CQ-Contest made by a member of the contest community.

Reasoning: This further clarifies the definition of MS as was already provided in the FAQ section.

2. **Club definitions.** The new rules are shown below.

- USA Clubs: Participation is limited to club members residing within a 250-mile radius circle from the centre of club area.
- DX Clubs: Participation is limited to club members residing within EITHER the DXCC country where the club is located OR within a 400-km radius circle from the centre of club.
- The word “reside” shall be defined as: To dwell permanently or continuously or to occupy a place as a person’s fixed, permanent, and principal home for legal purposes.

Reasoning: This language is simplified from prior versions. Basically, it says that a club member can operate anywhere in the world and still have the score count for the participant’s club. The word “reside” is also defined.

3. **General Rules for All Entrants** has two additions.

- For ITU Region 1 stations: transmitting on the 40 m band, above 7 200 kHz during the SSB (phone) contest weekend is not permitted.
- For ITU Region 1 stations: transmitting below 1810 kHz during the contest weekends is not permitted.
Reasoning: Interpreting country and ITU rules has consistently been a topic of debate on several forums, including in the CQ WW Contest Committee, such as what is a rule versus what is guideline and what about individual country rules. The CQ WW 2017 Rules now remove the option for debate by defining two important frequency limits as part of the rules.

4. **Audio Recordings:** The updated rule expands the scope from “top three” to “to five.” It also expands the timeframe for such requests from 90 days to 120 days. The Classic Overlay is now also specifically *included* in the “top five” definition. Further clarity about the recording now specifies that it must be a continuous recording and that “recordings of individual QSOs” alone is not acceptable. Finally, the category options to which a log can be reclassified, if no recording is provided, are elaborated and expanded, including the addition of a new category (Administrative Check Log).

Reasoning: The top 3 was expanded to top 5 because, in some cases, a top 3 entrant could be “knocked out” after review. Since we are still focused on the top 3, even after one was “knocked out,” to be fair, the rule was expanded to the top 5.

Equally, with the possibility of a top 3 being “knocked out,” the timeframe for such requests (for a recording) was expanded to 120 days.

Specifying that the Classic overlay is included in the recording requirement closes a perceived gap in the Rules as they were written. This was done based on feedback from the contest community.

At least one “top 3” entrant submitted a recording that was not a continuous recording but instead recorded each individual QSO. This prevented the committee from hearing how the entrant was tuning the band, something which is essential to proper adjudication.

In 2016, the committee was faced with a difficult decision about what to do with entrants who did not, or were not able to, submit the required recording. Disqualification of an entrant for failure to make a recording, in many cases, did not seem appropriate, and some of those were made into a Check Log. However, such action by the committee then groups the entrant in with those who actually submitted their log as a Check Log. Therefore, a new category, designed specifically for future top 5 entrants who do not or are not able to submit a recording as required, was created.

[Editorial comment: It is important to note a few things about the “recording” rule. First, 2016 was not the first year for this rule. Second, the committee does not and will not request a recording simply because an entrant is in the top 5. The committee will request a recording when something suspicious or curious in the log is identified by the committee. This can be a statistical flag or something identified after human review. The committee does not request a recording in an attempt to “go fishing” for something “out of the blue” or “without reason.” If you are not breaking the rules or trying to stretch the rules beyond the letter and/or spirit of the rules, you are probably not going to be asked for a recording.]

5. **Log Checking.** The penalty for a call sign copying error (busted/bad call or NIL) is changed from 2:1 back to 3:1. The penalty for altering the QSO time, for M2 and MS entries, is changed from “remove the QSO” to a penalty of 10 x for QSO points and multipliers.

Reasoning: Historically, the BAD and NIL penalties have, for decades, been 3:1. The 3:1 penalty dates back into the paper log days, well before the release of the IBM XT home computer. In 2013, the penalty was changed to 2:1. The current committee leadership feels that the 3:1 penalty provided more incentive to “get the call right,” and so it is reinstated.

The MS and M2 categories have strict time requirements. It is possible to alter the time that an individual QSO is logged so that the QSO (or QSOs) no longer results in a band change violation. In the past, some entrants would have a “small number” of such events, also known as “rubber-clocking.”

Over the years, there has been debate within the committee on how such offenses should be addressed. Some argued that rubber-clocking is intentional cheating and that even one such violation should result in a DQ. Others argued that it is not “fair” to DQ a log with thousands of QSOs for just one or two falsified contacts. Both arguments have merit.

However, if the falsified QSOs are simply removed without a penalty, then the entrant has not incurred any harm by cheating; their score is simply returned back to where it should have been. This means that the entrant has no potential downside impact. If the committee fails to find the rubber-clocking, the cheaters win. And if the committee does find the rubber-clocking, then, under the previous rules, the cheaters suffer no injury, because they simply lose the QSO. So really, they still win. Risk without possible consequences only encourages risk, in this case, cheating.

Now, with the 10 x penalty for rubber clocking in place (for both points *and* mults), there is a strong incentive for the entrant to not falsify the logged times (rubber-clocking). If they cheat and get caught twice, they will lose a lot of points and even worse, 20 multipliers (or 40 multipliers if both QSOs were “double mults”). The idea is to make the penalty for altering logged times so intolerable (high penalty), that the entrants will not be tempted to try.

As has always been the case, excessive rubber-clocking (intentionally subjective) will result in disqualification of the entry along with DQ for all the operators at that station.

Please note that any band-change-violation which does *not* involve altering the actual time of the QSO is *not* impacted by the 10 x rule.

Rule changes discussed, but **not** approved

1. Combine SO with SOA
2. Make SOA an overlay category for SO
3. Allow Self-Spotting of some sort
 - Everyone can self-spot
 - Only assisted entrants can self-spot
 - Assisted entrants can self-spot; Not-Assisted entrants can request to be spotted using the HF contest band where they are operating, in real time.

Ham Radio 2017

Take a virtual tour of Friedrichshafen 2017 with this very large photo album from F6BLP, visit http://mail01.tinyletterapp.com/ke9v/calling-cq-issue-98/9040021-photos.google.com/share/af1qipnrxvi-tabfgivarpx_lut4eppr0nu8l_uadnh_aqjvqltvokpj0uasdhjx4itkcjq?c=525cc316-4c9f-4513-8bcb-ec9a8d443069

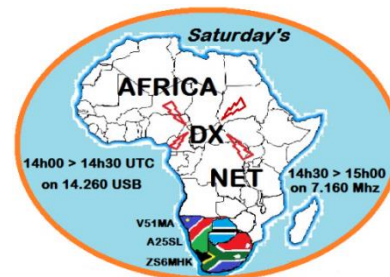
RAC 150 Award

To commemorate Canada's 150th anniversary since Confederation in 1867, Radio Amateurs of Canada presents the RAC 150 Award programme for contacting the special RAC stations between 1 July and 31 December 2017: VA2RAC Quebec, VA3RAC Ontario, VE1RAC Nova Scotia, VE4RAC Manitoba, VE5RAC Saskatchewan, VE6RAC Alberta, VE7RAC British Columbia, VE8RAC Northwest Territories, VE9RAC New Brunswick, VO1RAC and VO2RAC Newfoundland and Labrador, VY0RAC Nunavut, VY1RAC Yukon and VY2RAC Prince Edward Island. Complete information can be found at <http://wp.rac.ca/rac150/>.

African DX

Egypt, SU. Chris, DM4DX, now living in Cairo, Egypt, will be active as SU/DM4DX from Egyptian Radio Amateurs Society Club station (SU0ERA) until November. He is trying to get an Egyptian SU9 callsign. Activity has been on 20 - 10 metres using SSB. QSL only via LoTW. No Bureau or direct QSLs.

Lesotho, 7P. Quintus, ZS2KU, and Vaughan, ZS2VR, will be active as 7P8QM and 7P8VRR from the Sani Pass region between 18 and 21 August. Activity will be on 40, 20 and 15 metres. QSL via their home call signs.



African Islands

IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Robben Island, ZS. The team of Jan, ZS1VDV, Paul, ZS1V, Andre, ZS1AN, Johan, ZS1A, Pierre, ZS6A, and Oleg, ZS1ANF, will be operating as ZS9V from Robben Island (IOTA AF-064) from 9 August until sometime on Sunday 13 August. This is the weekend BEFORE the International Lighthouse and Lightship weekend!

In addition to the stations the team had last year (SSB station on 10, 15, 20 and SSB station on 40 and 80), this year they will also have a CW station operating on the high bands. Details of the CW operating bands and possible digital modes and bands will be announced closer to the time. Further information on the DXpedition will be published on www.zs9v.org.za as it becomes available.

Canary Islands, EA8. Jose, EA8CNR, will be active during the RSGB IOTA Contest (29 and 30 July) from Gran Canaria Island (AF-004) as a Single-Op/All-Band/Low-Power entry. QSL via his home call sign, direct, LoTW or eQSL.

Canary Islands, EA8. Marco, EA8AQV, will be active during the RSGB IOTA Contest (29 and 30 July) from Gran Canaria Island (AF-004) as a Single-Op/All-Band/Low-Power entry. QSL via his home call sign, direct or eQSL. NO BUREAU.

Seychelles, S7. Nobuaki, JA0JHQ, will be active as S79NH from Praslin Island (AF-024) between 26 and 31 July. Activity will be on 160 - 10 metres using CW and RTTY (possibly SSB). He will also be in the RSGB IOTA Contest (29 and 30 July). QSL via his home call sign, direct, by the Bureau, LoTW or ClubLog. For more details and updates, see <https://pandasan.jimdo.com/s79nh>

Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 17 to 24 July 2017

SKCC Sprint

00:00 - 02:00 UTC 26 July

Geographic Focus: Worldwide

Participation: Worldwide

Awards: Worldwide

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST and state, province or country, name and SKCC no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 28 July 2017

E-mail log summary to: (none)

Post log summary at:

http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/submit-display.php

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/

Phone Fray

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 26 July

Geographic Focus: North America

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name
 Work stations: Once per band
 QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
 Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 28 July 2017
 E-mail logs to: (none)
 Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: http://www.per-luma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf

CWops Mini-CWT Test
 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 26 July and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 27 July
 Geographic Focus: Worldwide
 Participation: Worldwide
 Awards: Worldwide
 Mode: CW
 Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
 Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high
 Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
 Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country
 Work stations: Once per band
 QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
 Multipliers: Each call once
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 29 July 2017
 Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: <http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html>

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, Data
 19:00 - 20:30 UTC 27 July
 Geographic Focus: United Kingdom
 Participation: Worldwide
 Awards: United Kingdom
 Mode: RTTY, PSK
 Bands: 80 m Only
 Classes: (none)
 Exchange: RST and serial no
 QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
 Multipliers: (none)
 Score Calculation: (see rules)
 Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 28 July 2017
 Upload log at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>
 Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:
<http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2017/r80mcc.shtml>

QRP Fox Hunt
 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 28 July
 Geographic Focus: United States
 Participation: Worldwide
 Mode: CW
 Bands: 20 m Only
 Classes: Single Op - fox or hound
 Max power: 5 watts
 Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output
 QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
 Multipliers: (none)
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
 Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 29 July 2017
 E-mail logs to: (see rules)
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/summer_rules.htm

NCCC RTTY Sprint
 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 28 July
 Geographic Focus: North America
 Participation: Worldwide
 Mode: RTTY
 Bands: (see rules)
 Classes: (none)
 Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 30 July 2017
 E-mail logs to: (none)
 Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at:
<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html>

NCCC Sprint
 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 28 July
 Geographic Focus: North America
 Participation: Worldwide
 Mode: CW
 Bands: (see rules)
 Classes: (none)
 Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 30 July 2017
 E-mail logs to: (none)
 Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at:
<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

Feld Hell Sprint
 00:00 - 23:59 UTC 29 July
 Geographic Focus: Worldwide
 Participation: Worldwide
 Mode: Feld Hell
 Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m
 Classes: (none)
 Max power: Standard: 100 watts
 QRP: 5 watts
 Exchange: (see rules)
 Work stations: Once per band
 QSO Points: (see rules)
 Bonus Points: (see rules)
 Multipliers: (see rules)
 Score Calculation: (see rules)
 Submit logs by: 2 August 2017
 Upload log at: <https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/>
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: <https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/contests/sprints/full-day-of-hell-sprint>

RSGB IOTA Contest
 12:00 UTC 29 July to 12:00 UTC 30 July
 Mode: CW, SSB
 Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
 Classes: Single Op 12 hrs - Island or world - CW, SSB or mixed - QRP, low or high; Single Op 24 hrs - Island or world - CW, SSB or mixed - QRP, low or high; Single Op Assisted 12 hrs - Island or world - CW, SSB or mixed - QRP, low or high; Single Op Assisted 24 hrs - Island or world - CW, SSB or mixed - QRP, low or high; Multi-Single Island - QRP, low or high; Multi-Two Island - QRP, low or high
 Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: RS(T) and serial no and IOTA no (if applicable)
 Work stations: Once per band per mode
 QSO Points: (see rules)
 Multipliers: Each IOTA reference once per band per mode
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 4 August 2017
 E-mail logs to: (none)
 Upload log at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2017/riota.shtml>

ARS Flight of the Bumblebees
 1700Z-2100Z30 July
 Mode: CW
 Bands: 40, 20, 15, 10 m
 Classes: Home-Based; Bumblebee
 Max power: 5 Watts
 Exchange: Home: RST, state, province or country and power; Bumblebee: RST, state, province or country and Bumblebee no
 Work stations: Once per band
 QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
 Multipliers: (none)
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total Bumblebees x 3
 Submit logs by: 13 August 2017
 E-mail logs to: ARSBumblebees@gmail.com
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: <http://www.arsqrp.blogspot.com/>

Next Week's Contests

Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 2 August
 CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 2 August and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 3 August
 NRAU 10 m Activity Contest, 17:00 - 18:00 UTC (CW); 18:00 - 19:00 UTC (SSB); 19:00 - 20:00 UTC (FM) and 20:00 - 21:00 UTC 3 August (Dig)
 QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 4 August
 NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 4 August
 NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 4 August
 10-10 International Summer SSB Contest, 00:01 UTC 5 August to 23:59 UTC 6 August
 European HF Championship, 12:00 - 23:59 UTC 5 August
 North American QSO CW Party, 18:00 UTC 5 August to 05:59 UTC 6 August
 SARL HF Phone Contest, 13:00 - 16:30 UTC 6 August
 ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 8 August

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter